

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 013418

61

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01

CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-03 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-01 CEA-01 /071 R

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COMM/OIM/AF - MMANLEY (PHONE)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL DURBAN PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES PRIORITY

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E.O. LL652: GDS

TAGS: ELTN, ETRD, EWWT, SF, MZ

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE RAILROAD AND PORT BOTTLENECKS: U.S.
CHROME SUPPLY PROBLEMS

REFERENCE: JOHANNESBURG 0042

PORT CONGESTION IN LOURENCO MARQUES IS CAUSING PROBLEMS
FOR GROWING NUMBER OF U.S. CHROME IMPORTERS AS NOTED REF-
TEL. CARL JOHNSON, CORNING GLASSWARE REPRESENTATIVE, IN-
FORMED DEPARTMENT THAT A CORNING SUBSIDIARY AND SEVERAL
OTHER U.S. FIRMS WERE ENCOUNTERING SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN OB-
TAINING ESSENTIAL SHIPMENTS OF SOUTH AFRICAN CHROME ORE.
CORNING SUBSIDIARY MANUFACTURES REFRACTORY MATERIALS FOR
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PAGE 02 STATE 013418

ELECTRIC ARC STEEL FURNACES AND USES ONLY SPECIAL SOUTH

AFRICAN HIGH-QUALITY REFRACTORY GRADE CHROME ORE. SINCE CHROME ORE FROM OTHER SOURCES (E.G. PHILIPPINES) NOT SUITABLE AS SUBSTITUTE, CORNING MUST RECEIVE REGULAR AND TIMELY SUPPLY OF ORE FROM SOUTH AFRICA IN ORDER TO CONTINUE PRODUCTION OF REFRACTORY MATERIALS. SHIPMENTS HAVE TRADITIONALLY PASSED FROM SOUTH AFRICA THROUGH PORT OF LOURENCO MARQUES. HOWEVER, DELAYS UP TO 30 DAYS NOW BEING ENCOUNTERED IN LOADING SHIPS AT LOURENCO MARQUES AND THIS IS IMPOSING CRITICAL SUPPLY PROBLEMS ON U.S. IMPORTERS. CONSEQUENTLY, ACCORDING TO JOHNSON, INTERESTED U.S. COM-

PANIES ARE ASKING SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST IN FOLLOWING MANNER:

1. ALLOCATE ADDITIONAL RAILROAD FREIGHT CARS FOR CHROME ORE HAULING;
2. ALLOW CHROME ORE TO BE SHIPPED FROM PORT OF DURBAN;
3. DETERMINE WHETHER PORT ELIZABETH IRON ORE BULK-HANDLING FACILITIES CAN BE USED TO LOAD CHROME ORE AS WELL;
4. SEEK APPROVAL OF MOZAMBICAN AUTHORITIES FOR USE OF MAIN WHARF AT LOURENCO MARQUES FOR LOADING CHROME ORE.

FRANK CHAPMAN, REPRESENTATIVE OF CORNING SUBSIDIARY, WILL BE VISITING SOUTH AFRICA WEEK OF JANUARY 20 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SAG OFFICIALS AND WILL KEEP POSTS INFORMED. CORNING NOT RPT NOT PRESENTLY SEEKING ANY ASSISTANCE FROM POSTS. KISSINGER

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